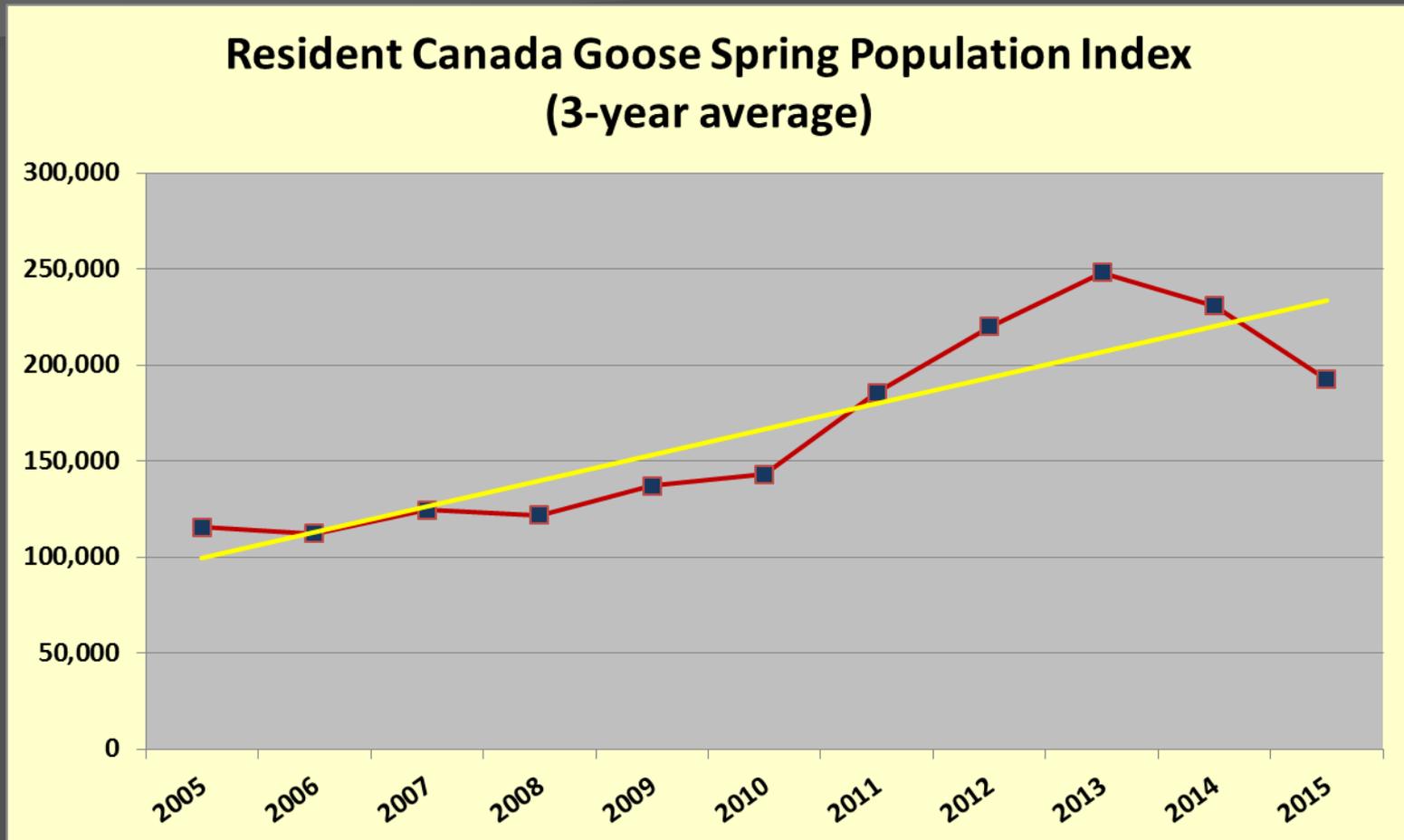


# Canada Goose Depredation



South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks  
Keith Fisk—WDM Program Administrator

# Resident Canada Goose Population



# WDM Program

- Important considerations.....
  - All wildlife in South Dakota is a public-trust resource
  - Most wildlife is raised on private land
  - Sportsmen rely heavily on private land for hunting access
    - Pheasant hunting - 73%
    - East River deer hunting – 86%
    - West River deer hunting – 62%
    - Waterfowl hunting – 62%
  - WDM services allows GFP to manage for higher wildlife populations
  - WDM services have kept GFP from making direct payments for damages



# Funding



## ■ 1998 Legislative Session

- Five dollar surcharge
- Most hunting licenses
- Cooperating landowner must sign agreement with GFP
  - *Agrees to allow reasonable, free public hunting access to non-family members who obtain proper permission.*
  - *Cannot charge any person or entity a fee or payment for hunting access for Canada geese.*

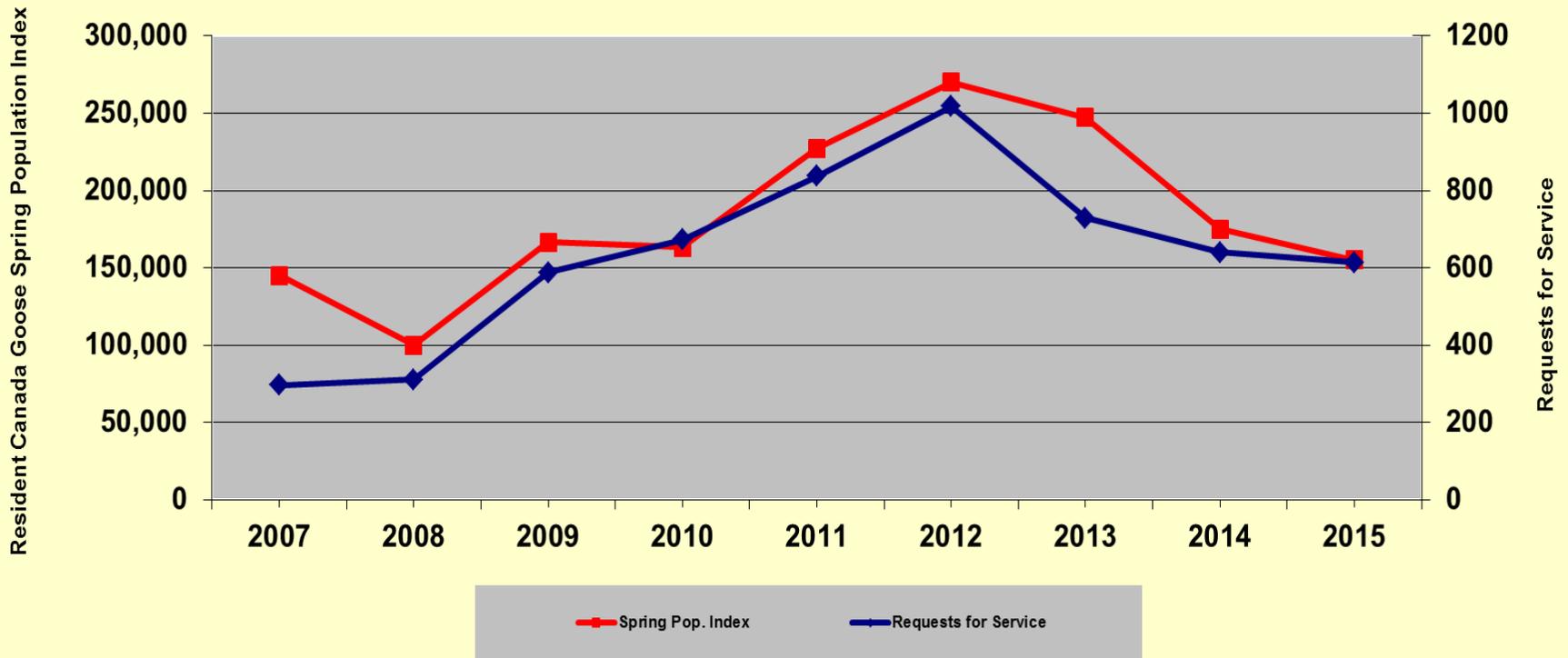
# History

- Volume of requests for assistance
  - Variable year-to-year
    - Wildlife populations
    - Weather
    - Landowner/producer tolerance
  - Utilize hunting seasons as primary tool (when possible)
  - Program services are responsive to landowner / producer demands
    - Canada goose example
      - FY 2002, \$244,000
      - FY 2012, \$717,000



# History

## Requests for Service vs. Resident Canada Goose Spring Population Index

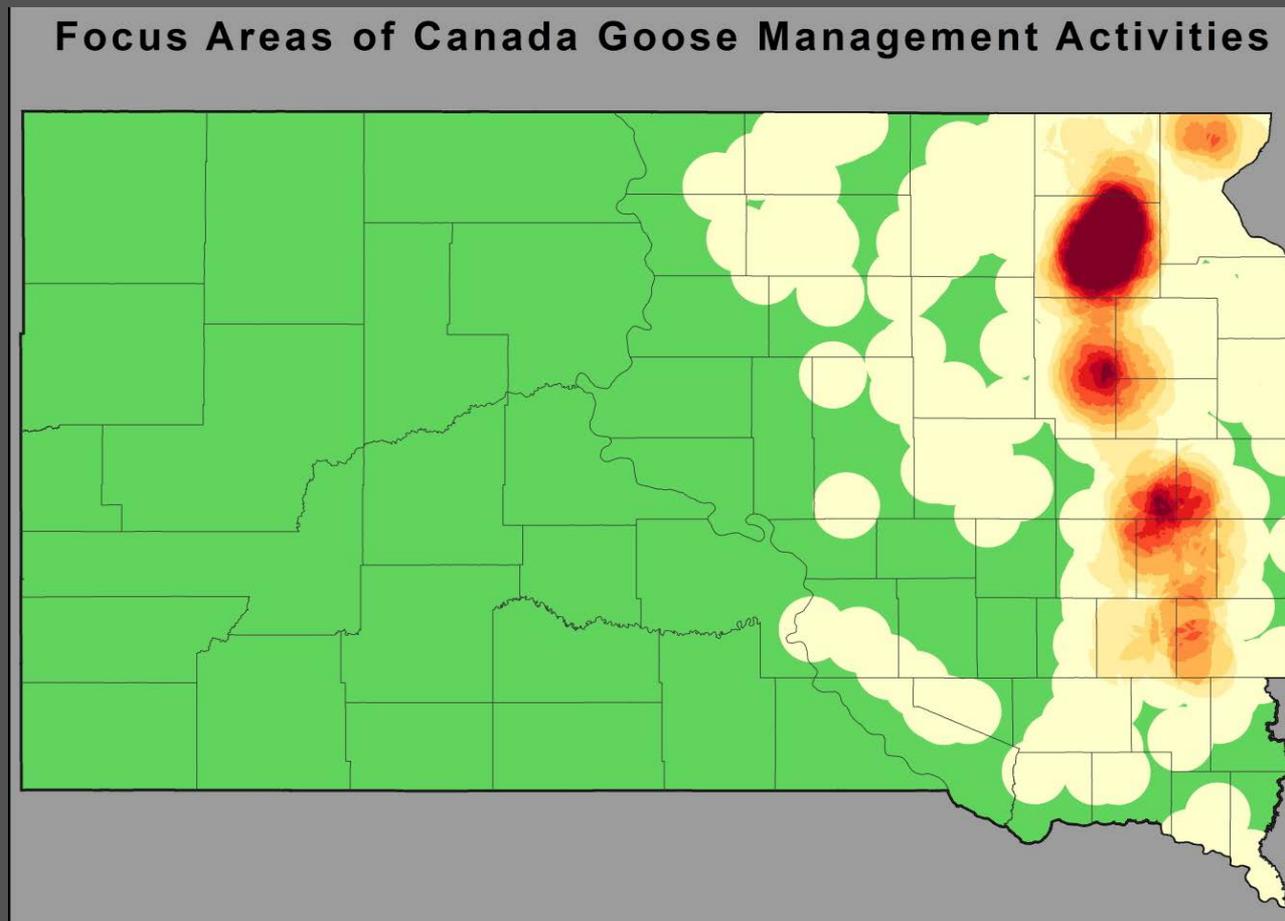


# Canada Goose Damage

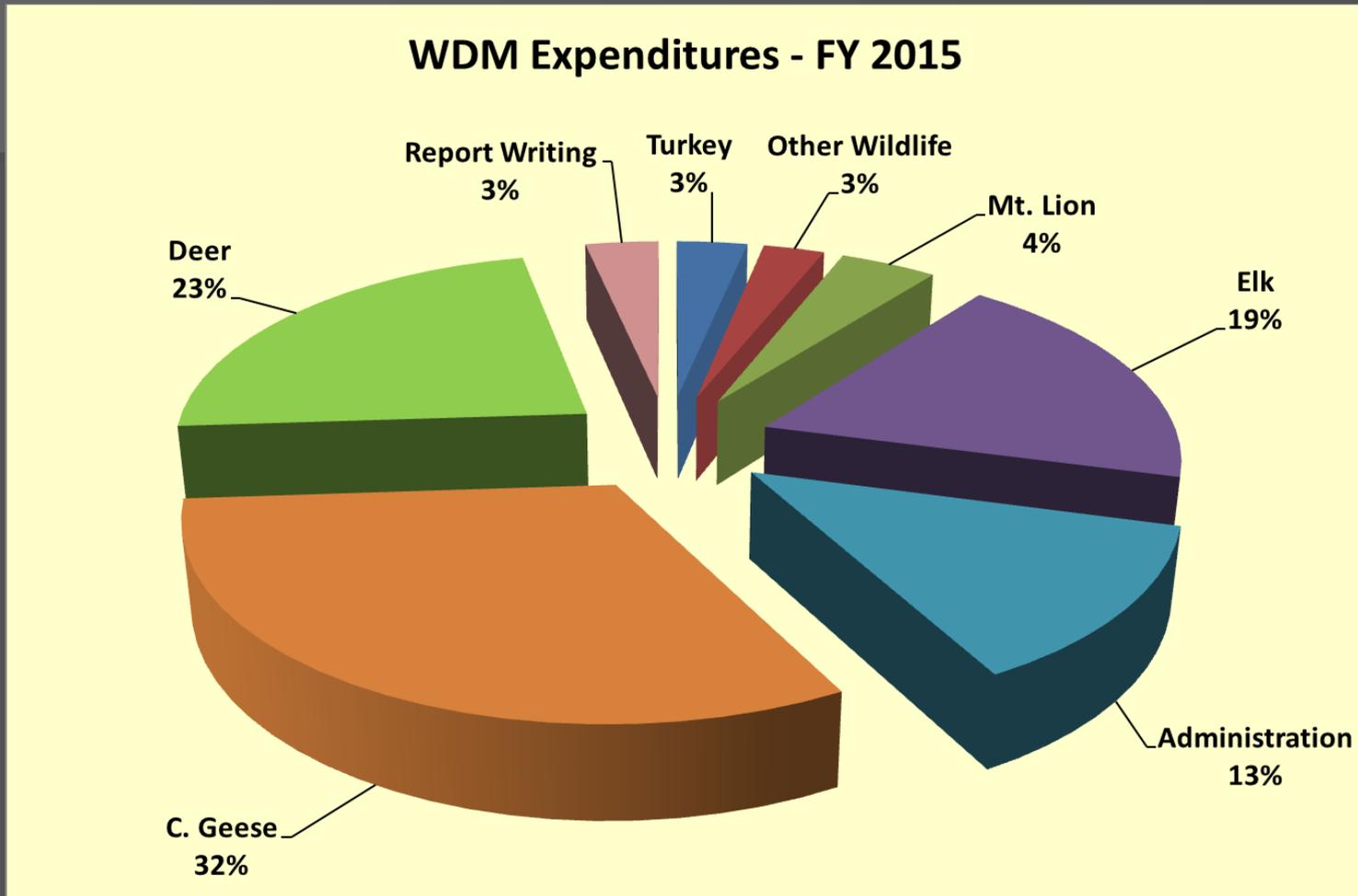


# Canada Goose Depredation

- FY 2015 worked with nearly 450 landowners
  - Addressed 614 requests for assistance



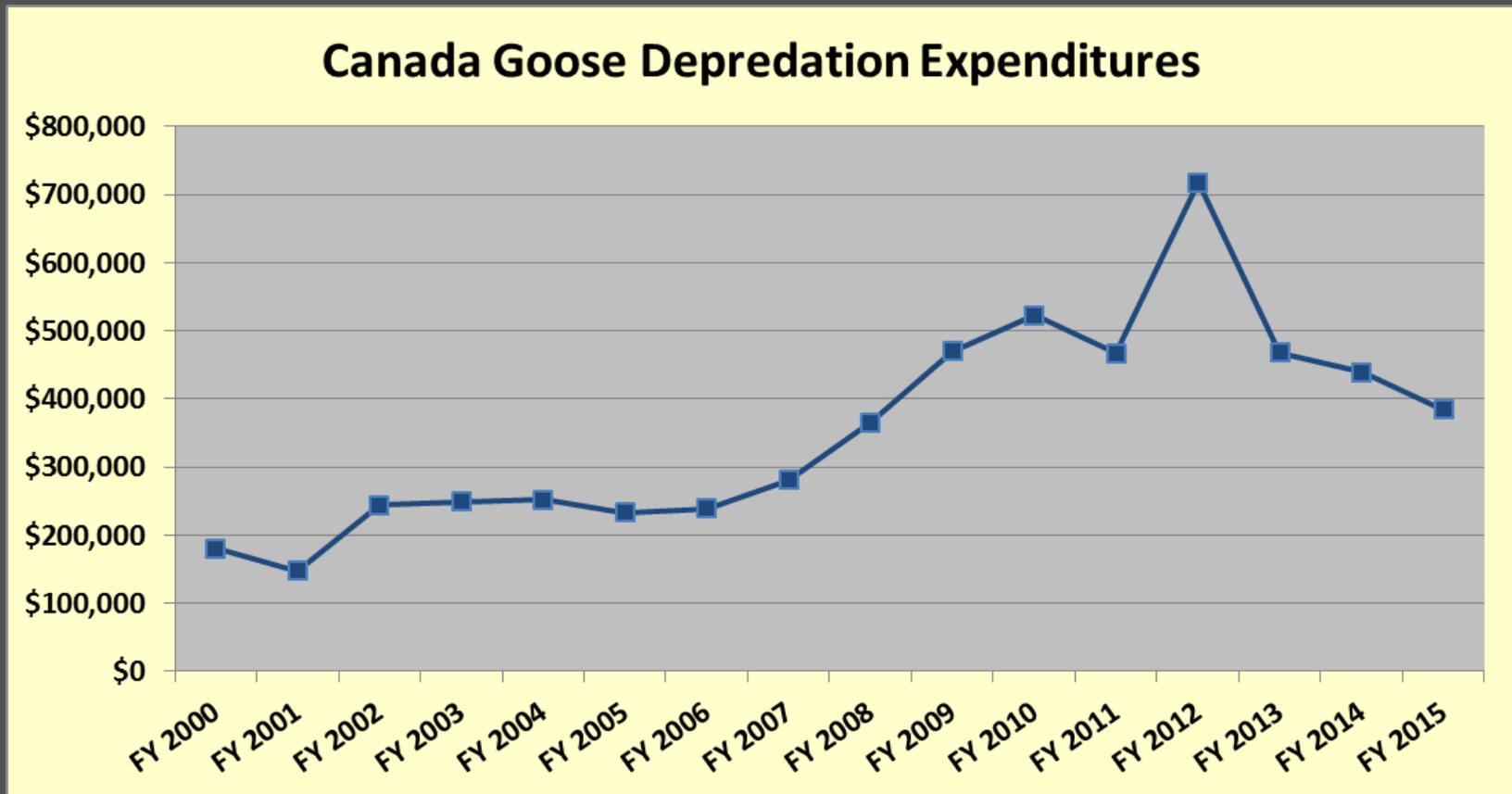
# Program Expenditures



- FY 2015 total expenditures = \$1,251,592
  - ☞ \$384,503 for Canada goose work

# Canada Goose Depredation

- Since 2000, spent more than \$5.6 million
  - Worked with over 1,600 landowners / producers



# Management Techniques

- Primary management tool – hunting
  - Most effective tool to manage populations
  - Targeted areas
  - August Management Take
    - Liberal bag limits
    - No possession limit
    - Donate geese to Sportsmen Against Hunger
  - Early Fall Canada Goose Season
  - Regular Canada Goose Season

# Abatement Techniques

## ■ Fence, Buffer strips, and Food plots

- Electric fence
- Food plots and temporary buffer strips
- Permanent buffer strips
- Permanent fence
- Feeding sites



## ■ Hazing

- Cracker-shells
- Propane cannons
- Dogs
- Coyote decoys
- Kites
- Shooting



# Landowner Subpermits

## ■ GFP Authorized

- First started in 2010 (3 permits)
- Approx. 350 permits
  - Shotguns and/or rifles
- 10 birds per permit
- April 1 – August 12
- Cannot use calls, blinds, or decoys
- Buried or burned
- Many other permit provisions
  - Cannot shoot from vehicle
- Previous results
  - 2012 – 413 birds
  - 2013 – 434 birds
  - 2014 – 1,524 birds

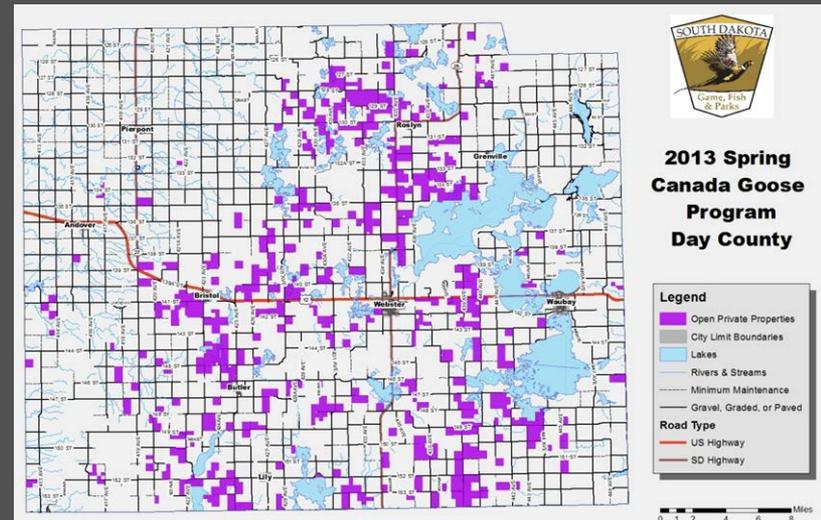


# Spring Canada Goose Program

- Implemented in 2013 and 2014
  - Utilized USFWS Permit
  - GFP subpermitted volunteer hunters
    - 25 geese per permit
    - Permittee may have up to three designees
  - Cannot use calls, blinds, or decoys
  - Pass shooting or jump shooting only
  - Harvested geese have to be donated to Sportsmen Against Hunger (SAH)
    - Five processors were available
  - Many other permit provisions
    - Cannot shoot from vehicle
    - One-half hour before sunrise to one-half after sunset, etc.

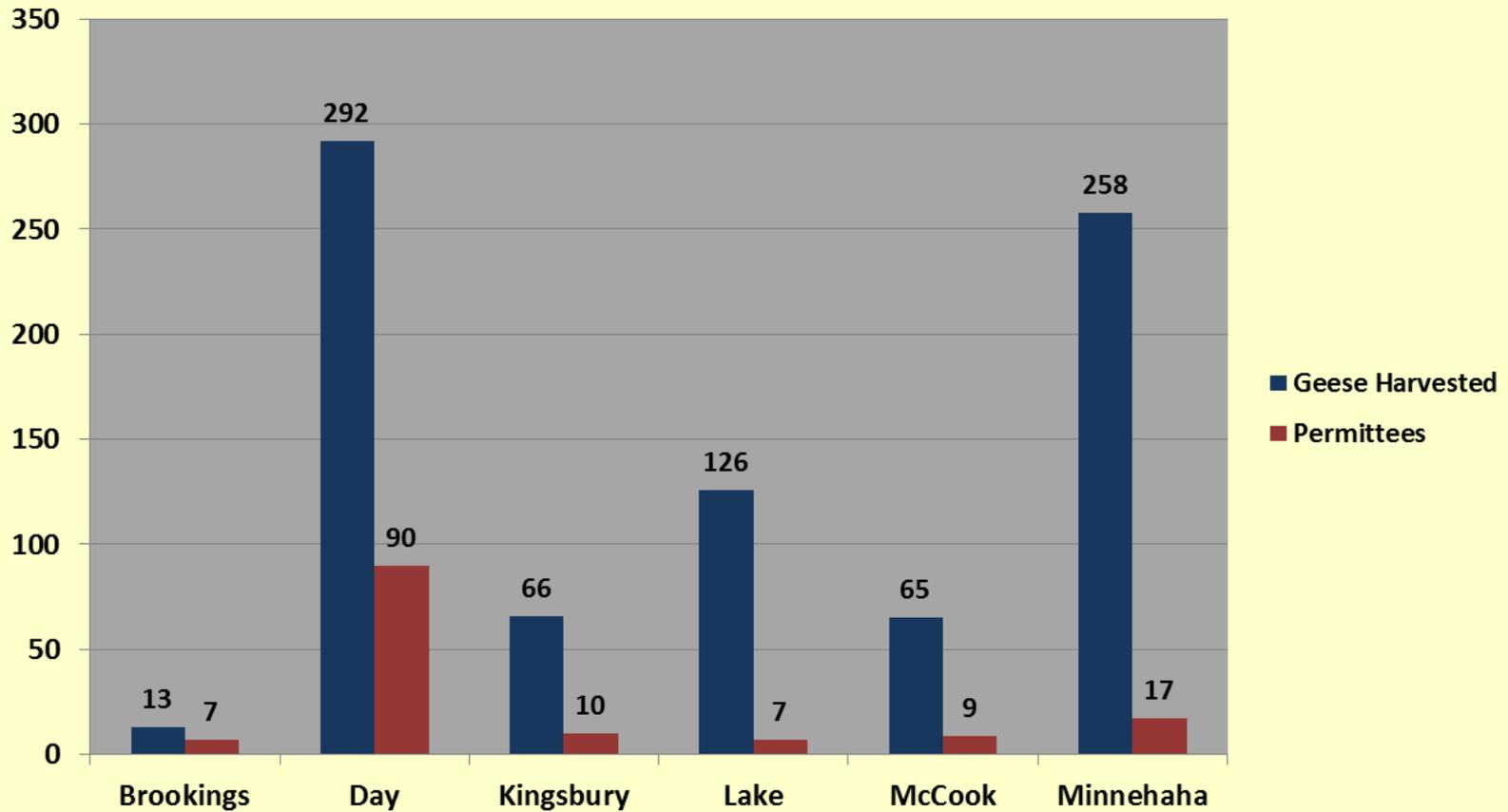
# Spring Canada Goose Program

- April 1 to April 30
  - Focused on areas with a history of crop damage
  - Private land only  $\approx$ 100,000 acres (GFP secured access)
    - Day
    - Brookings
    - Clark
    - Kingsbury
    - Lake
    - McCook
    - Minnehaha
- Online Registration
  - More than 800 people registered



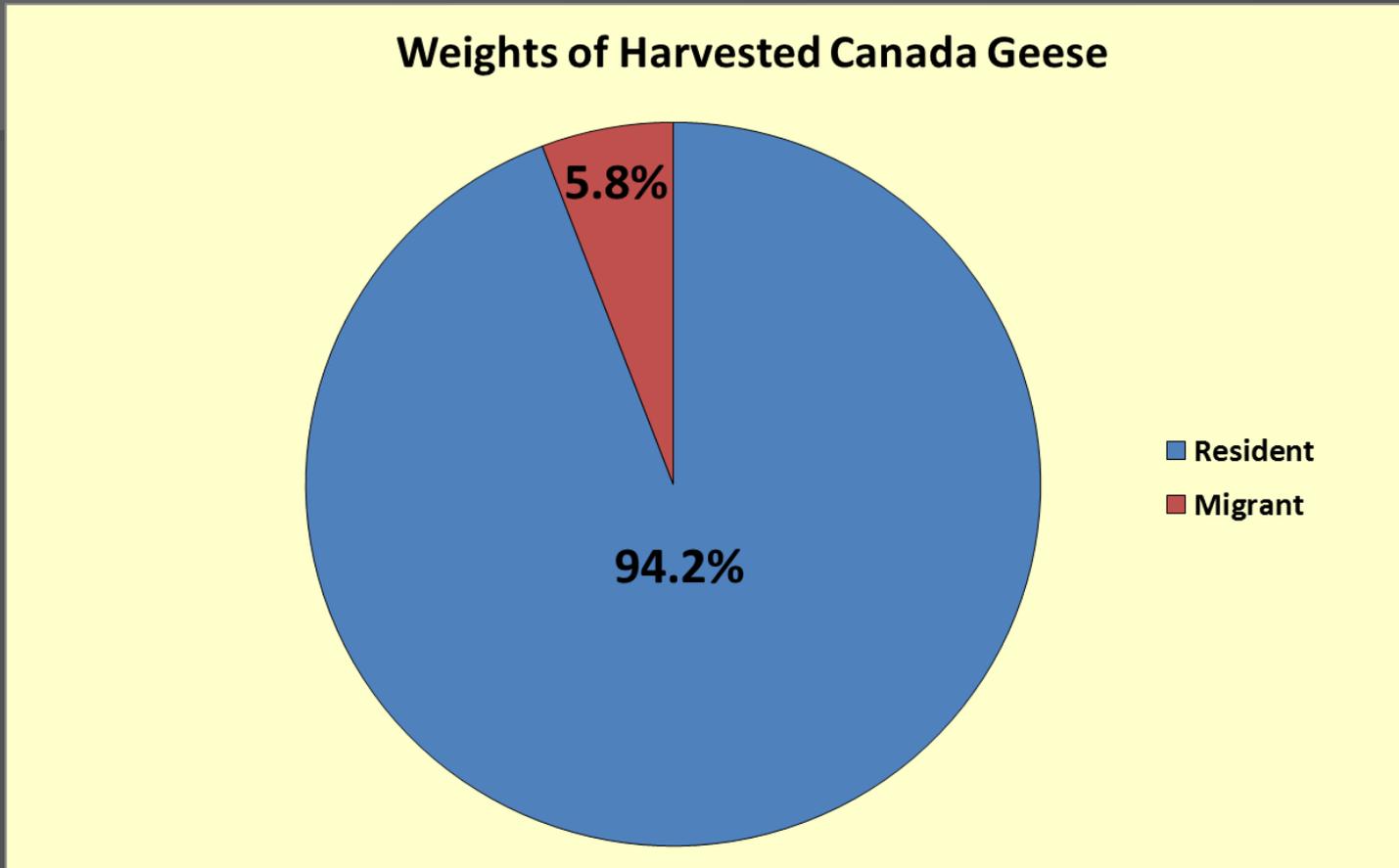
# Results

## 2013 Spring C. Goose Harvest



Total Harvest = 820

# Harvest Composition



- Total harvest = 820
  - Weighed 76% of total harvest
  - North and south locations

# Results

- 2013 - 820 Canada geese harvested
- 2014 - 665 Canada geese harvested
- Difficult to evaluate success
  - Initial objectives
    - Haze geese away from specific locations
    - Lower population at a local level
    - Reduce damage at these locations
    - Reduce GFP expenditures and effort
  - Accomplishments
    - Public support (sportsmen and landowners)
    - Good access to private lands
    - USFWS would allow
    - Can target resident geese
    - SAH could accept harvested birds

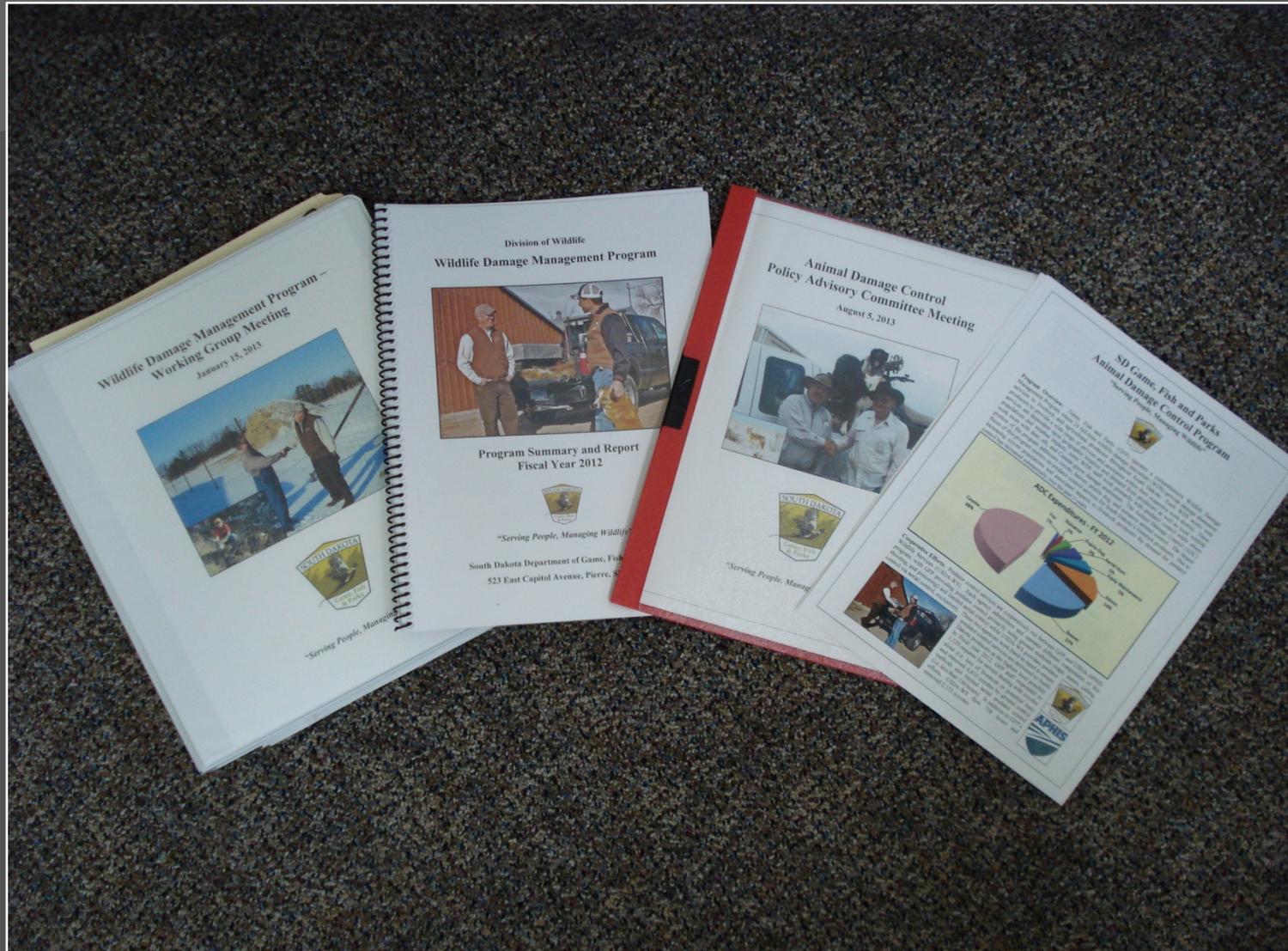
# Additional Tools

- Lethal Take
  - USFWS Permit
    - Nest addling (up to 2,500 nests)
    - Lethal take (up to 9,000 birds)





# Accountability and Transparency



# Questions/Comments?

